duty on polyester fibre was reduced from Rs. 45 per Kg. to Rs. 25 per Kg.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government has urged the Central Government to review the matter as it is affecting the powerlooms in the State; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The situation is under constant watch of the Government. Benefits of duty reduction on polyester staple fibre have generally been passed on by the manufacturers to the users of the fibre. Prices of fabrics using the fibre have also shown a decline in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Maharashtra Government have written to the Central Government saying *inter alia* reduction in duty on polyester fibre without any corresponding reduction in duty on synthetic filament yarn has affected powerlooms in their State adversely. The polyester filament yarn prices have shown a declining trend recently.

Taking over of sick textiles mills in Maharashtra

2982. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the sick textiles mills in Maharashtra taken over by Government in 1983;

(b) whether it is a fact that these mills have not yet resumed normal functioning;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the number of workers in these mills at present;

(e) whether Government propose to nationalise all these textile mills in order to restore normal working;

(f) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(g) what relief has been or is being given to the workers of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The names of the 13 Textile Undertakings, whose management was taken over pending nationalisation by Government in 1983 are given in the statement attached (*See* below.)

(b) and (c) The 13 mills have reached normal functioning commensurate with the condition of machinery.

(d) As on 31st October, 1985, there were 21,635 workers employed in these mills.

(e) The takeover of management of all 13 mills was pending nationalisation.

(f) It is not possible to indicate any specific date in this regard.

(g) The current engagement of workers is commensurate with the present utilisation of capacities. An amount of Rs. 372.74 lakhs has been paid as gratuity to the superannuated workmen.

Statement

1. Elaphinstone Spg. & Wvg. Mills.
2. Finlay Mills.
3. Gold Mohur Mills.
4. Jam Manufacturing Mills.
5. Kohinoor Mills No. 1.
6. Kohinoor Mills No. 2.
7. Kohinoor Mills No. 3.
8. Shri Madhusudan Mills.
9. New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills.
10. Podar Mills.
11. Podar (Process).
12. Shree Sitaram Mills.
13. Tata Mills.

Examination of safety measures in Chemical Factories in Delhi

2983. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of gas leakage from Sriram Food and Fertilizer Factory in

Delhi on December 4, 1985 Government propose to undertake a survey of all the chemical factories in Delhi to study the safety measures adopted by them;

(b) whether any directive has been issued to shift these factories away from crowded localities;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the gas leakage incident referred to in part (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (d) Delhi Administration have set up a High Level Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri N. K. Sethuraman General Manager, Engineers India Ltd. to go into the causes of leakage of Oleum its after effects and to fix responsibility for the accident and also to advise whether the factory should be shifted away from the present location in densely populated area. The Committee has been asked to submit its report within one month. In so far as other hazardous industries in Delhi are concerned, the Expert Committee earlier appointed is expected to undertake a survey of the hazardous chemical units in Delhi and submit its recommendations regarding safety aspects in respect of those units.

Export price of tea grown in Kerala

2984. SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the tea producers of Kerala to the effect that export price of tea grown in Kerala is less than its actual cost of production; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures, if any, Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir. During the period January to October, 1985 the average unit value realisation of tea exports from Cochin Port has been quite high at Rs. 29.57 per kg.

(b) Does not arise.

NTC (WBABO)

2985. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Limited, Calcutta has sought further financial support for completion of the ongoing projects for modernisation and expansion of its various units;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the percentage of increase in expenditure on modernisation of each such project; and

(d) what further steps are being taken to expedite the completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and b) NTC (WBABO) Ltd., Calcutta have asked the NTC (Holding Company) for release of about Rs. 85 lakhs, for balancing equipment, under approved modernisation schemes.

(c) Modernisation is a continuous process. The National Textile Corporation (Holding Company) has sanctioned escalation in expenditure on modernisation schemes of each of the eighteen mills. The mill-wise escalation in respect of completed schemes is given in the statement attached (see below).

(d) Implementation on modernisation is closely monitored and suitable action taken wherever necessary.